

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS USE, STORAGE & DISPOSAL



ou'd be amazed how many hazardous materials we have on hand at home. Oil-based paints and stains, paint thinner, gasoline, charcoal starter fluid, cleaners, waxes, pesticides, fingernail polish remover, and wood preservatives are just a few.

When these items are spill on the ground or into a storm drain, they can go directly into streams, lakes, or wetlands harming fish and wildlife. They also infiltrate into the ground and contaminate drinking water supplies. Similarly, contamination occurs from pouring hazardous products down a sink or toilet into a septic system or piped to a municipal sewer system. Many compounds will "pass through" the wastewater treatment plant and may contaminate receiving waters or harm the biological process used at the treatment plant, reducing overall treatment efficiency.

With so many types of hazardous products in Clark County homes, serious environmental harm could result if we don't use, store and dispose of them properly. Here are some ways to help keep these materials out of our soils, sediments and waters.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Dispose of hazardous materials and their containers properly. Never dump products labeled as "poisonous", "corrosive", "caustic", "flammable", "inflammable", "volatile", "explosive" "danger", "warning", "caution" or "dangerous" outdoors, into a storm drain, sinks, toilets or drains. Call Clark County Environmental Services at 397-6118, ext. 4352, for information on disposal sites, methods, collection events, and alternative products.
- Check containers frequently for signs of leaks. If a container is rusty and looks like it may leak, place it in a secondary container (like a plastic bucket with kitty litter) to avoid a cleanup problem.

- Store hazardous materials containers under cover and off the ground. Keep them out of the weather to avoid rusting, freezing, cracking, etc.
- Hazardous materials should be stored out of childrens' reach in clearly labeled, unbreakable containers. Don't store in food and beverage containers.
- Keep appropriate spill cleanup materials on hand. Kitty litter is good for many oil-based spills.
- Ground cloths and drip pans should be used under any work outdoors which involves hazardous materials, such as oil-based paints, stains, rust removers, masonry cleaners, and others bearing label warnings, such as those outlined above.
- Latex paint (not accepted in liquid form at the landfill) may be taken to a household hazardous waste site for recycling; or you can leave the can uncovered in a protected place until dry, then put it in the garbage. To quickly dry unused paint, just pour kitty litter in the can to absorb it. Once paint is dry, leave the lid off when you place it in the garbage.
- Use less toxic products whenever possible. Contact the Hazardous Waste Hotline, 1-800-287-6429 or call the Washington Toxics Coalition at (206) 632-1545, for information on alternatives.
- Move an activity involving a hazardous material indoors (with proper ventilation) out of the weather, if possible.
- Follow manufacturers' directions in using all materials. Over-applying yard chemicals, for instance, can wash compounds into receiving water bodies. Never apply pesticides when rain is expected.
- When hazardous materials are in use, place the container inside a tub or bucket to minimize spills.
- Only buy as much as you need for the project and safely dispose of leftovers (in original containers with labels to identify the material). Use the free hazardous waste facilities or collection events for disposal.

For more information, contact Clark County Public Works, Environmental Services at 397-6118, ext. 4345

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES AND DISPOSAL METHODS



Pour small amounts down drain\*

Recycle it



Put it in the trash

Take it to a hazardous  
waste collection facility

### Kitchen

Aerosol cans (empty)

Aluminum cleaners

Ammonia based cleaners

Bug sprays

Drain cleaners

Floor care products

Furniture polish

Metal polish with solvent

Window cleaner

Oven cleaner (lye based)

### Bathroom

Alcohol based lotions (after-  
shaves, perfumes)

Bathroom cleaners

Dipilatories

Disinfectants

### (Bathroom continued)

Permanent lotions, hair relaxers

Medicine (expired)

Nail polish/remover (solidified)

Toilet, tub and tile cleaners

### Garage

Antifreeze

Autobody repair products

Battery (lead, acid)

Brake fluid

Car wax solvent

Diesel fuel

Fuel oil

Gasoline

Kerosene

Metal polish with solvent

Motor Oil



\* Don't pour chemicals down the drain if you are connected to a septic system.

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES AND DISPOSAL METHODS



Pour small amounts down drain\*



Recycle it



Put it in the trash



Take it to a hazardous  
waste collection facility

## Garage Continued

Other oil



Garden fertilizer



Transmission fluid



Fungicide



Windshield washer solution



Herbicide



## Workshop

Paintbrush cleaner w/solvent



Weed killer



Paintbrush cleaner w/ TSP



## Miscellaneous

Aerosol cans (empty)



Artist's paints



Glue (solvent based)



Cleaning solvents



Glue (water-based)

Fiberglass epoxy



Paint: latex (dried)



Gum cleaning solvents



Paint: latex (wet)



Car wax solvent



Paint: oil based, auto, model



Lighter fluid



Paint thinner or stripper



Household batteries



Primer



Moth balls



Rust removed (w/phosphoric acid)



Photographic chemicals  
(mixed and properly diluted)



Turpentine or varnish



Shoe polish



Wood preservative



\*Don't pour chemicals down the drain if you are connected to a septic system.

For more information, contact Clark County Public  
Works, Environmental Services at 397-6118, ext. 4345